

MMC Impedance Modelling and Interaction of Converters in Close Proximity

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Abstract- This paper develops a small-signal impedance model of modular multilevel converters (MMCs) using harmonic state-space (HSS) method and studies the stability in a multiple converter scenario. In order to simplify analysis on the coupling characteristics between different frequencies in MMCs, the proposed model is developed in the positive-negative-zero (PN0) sequence-frame, where the zero-sequence current in three-phase three-wire system is directly set to zero without introducing complicated method. A simple 2 by 2 admittance matrix in PN0-frame is extracted from the MMC small-signal model for ease of system stability analysis. Using the developed impedance model, the multi-infeed interaction factor (MIIF) measure is adopted to analyze the most significant interactions for multi-infeed converter systems to be prioritized. Different outer-loop controllers are adopted and compared in the analysis to illustrate the effect of different control modes on converter impedance and system stability. Analytical studies and time-domain simulation results are provided to validate the proposed model and stability analysis.

Index Terms- Admittance, harmonic state-space (HSS), modular multilevel converter (MMC), stability.

I. INTRODUCTION

With rapidly increased penetration of renewable energy and distributed generation, and the increased use of HVDC systems for interconnection and renewable integration, system stability of grid-connected converters becomes a significant challenge [1]. Hence, effective methods to identify the source of resonance and to mitigate the stability problems becomes critically important. To assess the system stability and dynamic interactions between grid and converters, the impedance-based stability analysis [2][3] is an effective method of identifying potential frequencies of disturbance to which an individual converter may be vulnerable to destabilizing behavior.

Therefore, an accurate impedance modelling of converters is required. Modular multilevel converter (MMC) is now being widely used for HVDC systems [4-6]. However, due to its inherently complex behavior such as internal circulating current and submodule (SM) capacitor voltage ripple, accurately modelling the impedance or admittance of MMC is a challenging task [7][8]. The consequences of not modelling

these aspects could lead to a displacement or deletion of frequencies of interaction and a mis-estimation of the magnitude of the impedance changes at those points.

Various studies have been carried out on developing MMC impedance models. In [9], an analytical sequence impedance model of a three-phase MMC is derived with the internal MMC dynamics, following the same approach used for 2-level VSCs. However, the 2nd harmonic in the arm current and PLL are not considered in the model. In [10], the AC side input admittances of the MMC under various control strategies are derived, though the circulating current controller is not included. Reference [11] focuses on the impact of different current-control schemes on the shape of MMC admittance, considering the 2nd internal harmonic current. However, a large resistive load is added at the AC side to provide increased passive damping, so that high-order harmonics are not presented in the system and not considered in [11]. However, in real systems, such strong passive damping does not exist and harmonic or inter-harmonic resonances are a major concern and must be modelled.

The Harmonic State-Space (HSS) method proposed to analyze linear time-periodic (LTP) system [12], models not only the steady-state harmonics in LTP systems, but also the dynamics of the harmonics during transients. Consequently, HSS method has been widely used to model power networks and converters, e.g., static synchronous compensators [13], LCC converters [12], transmission lines [14], and two-level VSCs [15]. Recently, HSS method has been used to model MMC impedance considering the impact of the internal harmonics [16]-[18]. Since the Fourier coefficients matrices in the HSS model are diagonal-constant matrices (Toeplitz matrices) [16], the MMC small-signal model based on HSS can be easily extended to any harmonic order. Hence, the dynamics of high-order harmonics in MMC can be fully considered.

However, various problems and limitations still exist in the proposed HSS-based MMC small-signal modelling methods [16]-[18]. In [16], a single-phase MMC model is developed and the impedance that reflects the voltage and current at the same frequency is derived but the couplings at different frequencies generated by the internal harmonics of MMC, are not taken into account. Impedance models of three-phase four-wire MMC systems, in which both the MMC DC mid-point and the AC neutral point are grounded providing a circulation path for the zero-sequence current, are derived in [17][18]. However, in reality, MMC systems are likely to be configured as an equivalent three-phase three-wire system without the low impedance path for the zero-sequence current. To describe the MMC zero-sequence current on the MMC AC side in three-phase three-wire systems, zero-sequence voltage compensation is proposed to add into the single-phase model in [17] and the

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single-phase impedance is obtained for three-phase system stability assessment. The MMC controllers in the models also adopt the proportional resonant (PR) controller in the abc-frame, implying that the controls for phase a, b, and c are totally independent and identical. However, for MMC controller implemented in $\alpha\beta$ -frame or dq-frame, the single-phase modelling method is inadequate and is thus unsuitable for three-phase MMC system.

In the latest study on MMC impedance modelling, reference [19] provides a comprehensive three-phase HSS model of MMC. Similar to [17], the DC mid-point voltage is compensated using the AC neutral point voltage to eliminate the zero-sequence current. However, when developing the small-signal model, the expression of the neutral point voltage involves the steady-state value and the perturbation variables of three-phase voltages as well as the control signal of the arms, which lead to an extra complex calculation in the HSS model. In [19], the complex vector representation of the controllers in dq-frame obtained based on the transfer function, has to be transformed to the $\alpha\beta$ -frame before being integrated into the MMC model to obtain the impedance in the positive-negative-zero (PN0) sequence frame, thus leading to complicated transformation and calculation.

In addition, the MMC impedance obtained in [19] is a 10 by 10 matrix. In order to simplify the process of stability assessment, a single input and single output (SISO) equivalent impedance of the MMC is derived by considering the grid side impedance. However, if the grid structure is more complex, e.g., there are other converters connected to the grid in close proximity, the grid impedance seen by the MMC will also become complicated. Thus it is difficult to simplify the 10 by 10 matrix of MMC impedance to a SISO equivalent. Therefore, a MMC impedance independent of the grid side impedance and in simple form is more beneficial for system stability assessment with multiple converters. MMC represented by 2 by 2 impedance matrix in modified sequence-domain [20] is developed in [21][22]. However, in the modified sequence-domain the frequencies of the coupling admittance cannot be represented. Moreover, unlike the impedance in the sequence domain, the MMC impedance in the modified sequence domain cannot be measured directly in time domain due to the existence of frequency shift between the modified sequence domain and sequence domain. In [23], a MMC 2 by 2 impedance matrix is derived to capture the characteristics of frequency coupling in sequence frame. However, the work focuses on the coupling between the AC system and DC system of the MMC and the dynamic of the PLL in AC side is not considered.

Considering the limitations in the existing modelling approach and limited work on assessing system stability with multiple MMCs, the main contributions of this paper are:

- Addressing the non-existence zero sequence current in three-phase three-wire systems, instead of adding a compensation voltage [17][19], the zero-sequence current is directly forced to zero thus providing a simplified modelling approach;
- When mapping the dq-controllers, their transfer functions are directly transformed from dq to the PN0-frame which significantly simplifies the modelling process compared to [19];
- Simplification of the high-dimensional MMC admittance to

a 2 by 2 matrix based on the characteristics of MMC harmonics in PN0-frame. The MMC impedance independent of the grid side impedance with simpler form can be more suitable for system stability assessment especially when multiple converters are considered;

- Interaction of converters in close proximity is studied using the developed models and system stability assessment in case of multiple MMCs in a network are carried out considering the multi-infeed interaction factor (MIIF).

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section II presents the HSS modelling procedure of three-phase MMC. In Section III, the small-signal admittance of MMC in PN0-frame is derived while Section IV verifies the proposed model and conducts the stability assessment. Section V analyzes the stability of converters in close proximity and Section VI draws the conclusions.

II. HSS MODELLING OF THREE-PHASE MMC

A. Linearizing MMC model in abc-frame

The equivalent circuit of the MMC average model [24][25] is depicted in Fig. 1, where a lumped capacitor C_m and a voltage source are used to mimic the dynamic of each arm. Take phase a as an example, V_a and Z_g represent the grid voltage and impedance seen at the MMC AC terminals, i.e., the impedance of converter transformer is incorporated into Z_g . Δv_{pa} is a small AC perturbation voltage. v_{cua}^Σ and v_{cla}^Σ are the sum of the capacitor voltages of the SMs in the upper and lower arms, respectively. The upper and lower arm current are i_{ua} and i_{la} , the arm voltage v_{ua} and v_{la} , and modulation control signal n_{ua} and n_{la} . v_{ga} and i_{ga} are the voltage and current on the AC side of the MMC, respectively. The DC voltage V_{dc} is assumed to be constant. Since the system is in a three-phase three-wire connection, the voltage of the DC mid-point is v_n .

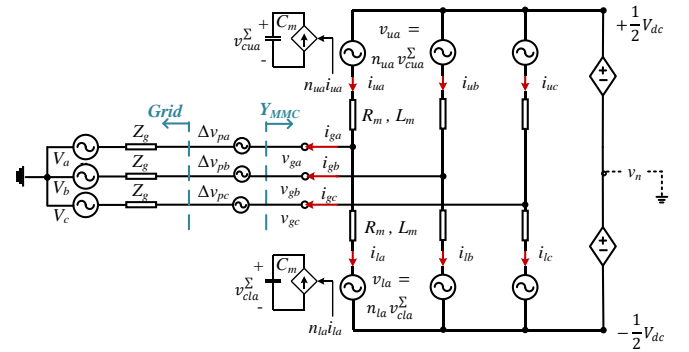


Fig. 1 Equivalent circuit of a three-phase MMC

For ease of analysis, the three-phase quantities are defined in 3 by 1 matrices as \mathbf{v}_{gabc} , \mathbf{i}_{gabc} , \mathbf{v}_{cua}^Σ , \mathbf{v}_{cla}^Σ , \mathbf{v}_{uabc} , \mathbf{i}_{uabc} , \mathbf{v}_{labc} , \mathbf{i}_{labc} , \mathbf{i}_{cabc} , \mathbf{V}_{dc} , and \mathbf{v}_n , whereas \mathbf{n}_{uabc} and \mathbf{n}_{labc} are 3 by 3 diagonal matrices.

For a three-phase MMC, the relationship between the arm voltage and the equivalent capacitor voltage of the SMs can be expressed as:

$$\mathbf{v}_{uabc} = \mathbf{n}_{uabc} \cdot \mathbf{v}_{cua}^\Sigma, \quad \mathbf{v}_{labc} = \mathbf{n}_{labc} \cdot \mathbf{v}_{cla}^\Sigma \quad (1)$$

The internal dynamics between equivalent capacitor voltage of SMs and the arm current are depicted as:

$$C_m \frac{d\mathbf{v}_{cuabc}^\Sigma}{dt} = \mathbf{n}_{uabc} \cdot \mathbf{i}_{uabc}, \quad C_m \frac{d\mathbf{v}_{clabc}^\Sigma}{dt} = \mathbf{n}_{labc} \cdot \mathbf{i}_{labc} \quad (2)$$

The arm voltages \mathbf{v}_{uabc} and \mathbf{v}_{labc} , and the capacitor voltages $\mathbf{v}_{cuabc}^\Sigma$ and $\mathbf{v}_{clabc}^\Sigma$ all contains multiple harmonics [24]. It indicates that MMC has multi-frequency responses due to its significant steady-state harmonic components in the arm currents and capacitor voltages.

The common-mode current that circulates inside the arms and the AC side current are denoted as:

$$\mathbf{i}_{cabc} = (\mathbf{i}_{uabc} + \mathbf{i}_{labc})/2 \quad (3)$$

$$\mathbf{i}_{gabc} = \mathbf{i}_{uabc} - \mathbf{i}_{labc} \quad (4)$$

The voltage on the AC terminal of MMC and the currents and voltages of the arms have the following relationship:

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{v}_{gabc} + L_m \frac{d\mathbf{i}_{uabc}}{dt} + R_m \mathbf{i}_{uabc} + \mathbf{v}_{uabc} = \frac{\mathbf{V}_{dc}}{2} + \mathbf{v}_n \\ \mathbf{v}_{gabc} - L_m \frac{d\mathbf{i}_{labc}}{dt} - R_m \mathbf{i}_{labc} - \mathbf{v}_{labc} = -\frac{\mathbf{V}_{dc}}{2} + \mathbf{v}_n \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

where $\mathbf{v}_n = [v_n, v_n, v_n]^T$ and the DC mid-point voltage v_n is obtained as [17]

$$v_n = \frac{n_{ua}v_{cua}^\Sigma - n_{la}v_{cla}^\Sigma + n_{ub}v_{cub}^\Sigma - n_{lb}v_{clb}^\Sigma + n_{uc}v_{cuc}^\Sigma - n_{lc}v_{clc}^\Sigma}{6} \quad (6)$$

Combining (1)-(4) with (5) and considering small perturbations, the MMC small-signal state-space model in abc-frame can be expressed as:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d\mathbf{i}_{cabc}}{dt} = -\frac{R_m}{L_m} \mathbf{i}_{cabc} - \frac{\mathbf{N}_{uabc}}{2L_m} \Delta \mathbf{v}_{cuabc}^\Sigma - \frac{\mathbf{N}_{labc}}{2L_m} \Delta \mathbf{v}_{clabc}^\Sigma - \frac{\mathbf{V}_{cuabc}^\Sigma}{2L_m} \Delta \mathbf{n}_{uabc} \\ \quad - \frac{\mathbf{V}_{clabc}^\Sigma}{2L_m} \Delta \mathbf{n}_{labc} \\ \frac{d\mathbf{i}_{gabc}}{dt} = -\frac{R_m}{L_m} \mathbf{i}_{gabc} - \frac{\mathbf{N}_{uabc}}{L_m} \Delta \mathbf{v}_{cuabc}^\Sigma + \frac{\mathbf{N}_{labc}}{L_m} \Delta \mathbf{v}_{clabc}^\Sigma - \frac{\mathbf{V}_{cuabc}^\Sigma}{L_m} \Delta \mathbf{n}_{uabc} \\ \quad + \frac{\mathbf{V}_{clabc}^\Sigma}{L_m} \Delta \mathbf{n}_{labc} - \frac{2}{L_m} \Delta \mathbf{v}_{pabc} + \frac{2}{L_m} \Delta \mathbf{v}_n \\ \frac{d\mathbf{v}_{cuabc}^\Sigma}{dt} = \frac{\mathbf{N}_{uabc}}{C_m} \Delta \mathbf{i}_{cabc} + \frac{\mathbf{N}_{uabc}}{2C_m} \Delta \mathbf{i}_{gabc} + \frac{\mathbf{I}_{cabc}}{C_m} \Delta \mathbf{n}_{uabc} + \frac{\mathbf{I}_{gabc}}{2C_m} \Delta \mathbf{n}_{uabc} \\ \frac{d\mathbf{v}_{clabc}^\Sigma}{dt} = \frac{\mathbf{N}_{labc}}{C_m} \Delta \mathbf{i}_{cabc} - \frac{\mathbf{N}_{labc}}{2C_m} \Delta \mathbf{i}_{gabc} + \frac{\mathbf{I}_{clabc}}{C_m} \Delta \mathbf{n}_{labc} - \frac{\mathbf{I}_{gabc}}{2C_m} \Delta \mathbf{n}_{labc} \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

where variables in capital form denote the values at the steady-state operation point and variables with Δ denote the small perturbations. The matrix $\Delta \mathbf{v}_n$ is equal to $[\Delta v_n, \Delta v_n, \Delta v_n]^T$ and the component Δv_n can be derived by linearizing (6) as:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta v_n = & \frac{N_{ua} \Delta v_{cua}^\Sigma - N_{la} \Delta v_{cla}^\Sigma + \Delta n_{ua} V_{cua}^\Sigma - \Delta n_{la} V_{cla}^\Sigma}{6} \\ & + \frac{N_{ub} \Delta v_{cub}^\Sigma - N_{lb} \Delta v_{clb}^\Sigma + \Delta n_{ub} V_{cub}^\Sigma - \Delta n_{lb} V_{clb}^\Sigma}{6} \\ & + \frac{N_{uc} \Delta v_{cuc}^\Sigma - N_{lc} \Delta v_{clc}^\Sigma + \Delta n_{uc} V_{cuc}^\Sigma - \Delta n_{lc} V_{clc}^\Sigma}{6} \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

B. Transforming small-signal model from abc- to PN0-frame

The PN0-frame has been chosen to study the system stability since in this frame different harmonics can be effectively tracked for a three-phase system [26]. The transformation matrix \mathbf{P} is adopted to realize the transformation from abc- to PN0-frame [12] as:

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & e^{j2\pi/3} & e^{j4\pi/3} \\ 1 & e^{j4\pi/3} & e^{j2\pi/3} \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (9)$$

Applying (9), (7) can be rewritten in PN0-frame as:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d\mathbf{i}_{cPN0}}{dt} = -\frac{R_m}{L_m} \mathbf{i}_{cPN0} - \frac{\mathbf{PN}_{uabc} \mathbf{P}^{-1}}{2L_m} \Delta \mathbf{v}_{cuPN0}^\Sigma - \frac{\mathbf{PN}_{labc} \mathbf{P}^{-1}}{2L_m} \Delta \mathbf{v}_{clPN0}^\Sigma \\ \quad - \frac{\mathbf{PV}_{cuabc}^\Sigma \mathbf{P}^{-1}}{2L_m} \Delta \mathbf{n}_{uPN0} - \frac{\mathbf{PV}_{clabc}^\Sigma \mathbf{P}^{-1}}{2L_m} \Delta \mathbf{n}_{lPN0} \\ \frac{d\mathbf{i}_{gPN0}}{dt} = -\frac{R_m}{L_m} \mathbf{i}_{gPN0} - \frac{\mathbf{PN}_{uabc} \mathbf{P}^{-1}}{L_m} \Delta \mathbf{v}_{cuPN0}^\Sigma + \frac{\mathbf{PN}_{labc} \mathbf{P}^{-1}}{L_m} \Delta \mathbf{v}_{clPN0}^\Sigma \\ \quad - \frac{\mathbf{PV}_{cuabc}^\Sigma \mathbf{P}^{-1}}{L_m} \Delta \mathbf{n}_{uPN0} + \frac{\mathbf{PV}_{clabc}^\Sigma \mathbf{P}^{-1}}{L_m} \Delta \mathbf{n}_{lPN0} - \frac{2}{L_m} \Delta \mathbf{v}_{pPN0} \\ \frac{d\mathbf{v}_{cuPN0}^\Sigma}{dt} = \frac{\mathbf{PN}_{uabc} \mathbf{P}^{-1}}{C_m} \Delta \mathbf{i}_{cPN0} + \frac{\mathbf{PN}_{uabc} \mathbf{P}^{-1}}{2C_m} \mathbf{C}_z \Delta \mathbf{i}_{gPN0} \\ \quad + \frac{\mathbf{PI}_{cabc} \mathbf{P}^{-1}}{C_m} \Delta \mathbf{n}_{uPN0} + \frac{\mathbf{PI}_{gabc} \mathbf{P}^{-1}}{2C_m} \Delta \mathbf{n}_{uPN0} \\ \frac{d\mathbf{v}_{clPN0}^\Sigma}{dt} = \frac{\mathbf{PN}_{labc} \mathbf{P}^{-1}}{C_m} \Delta \mathbf{i}_{cPN0} - \frac{\mathbf{PN}_{labc} \mathbf{P}^{-1}}{2C_m} \mathbf{C}_z \Delta \mathbf{i}_{gPN0} \\ \quad + \frac{\mathbf{PI}_{clabc} \mathbf{P}^{-1}}{C_m} \Delta \mathbf{n}_{lPN0} - \frac{\mathbf{C}_m^{-1} \mathbf{PI}_{gabc} \mathbf{P}^{-1}}{2C_m} \Delta \mathbf{n}_{lPN0} \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

Due to the three-phase three-wire system, no zero-sequence current circulation path exists at MMC AC side. Note that in (7), $\Delta \mathbf{v}_n$ is the zero-sequence compensation voltage inserted into the AC side to eliminate the zero-sequence grid current in abc-frame, and contains complicated multiple harmonic terms as shown in (8). To simplify the modelling, the matrix \mathbf{C}_z is introduced to force the zero-sequence grid current zero without the need for $\Delta \mathbf{v}_n$, as:

$$\mathbf{C}_z = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (11)$$

The small-signal model of the three-phase MMC around an operation trajectory in PN0-frame, characterized by $\Delta \mathbf{i}_{cPN0}$, $\Delta \mathbf{i}_{gPN0}$, $\Delta \mathbf{v}_{cuPN0}^\Sigma$ and $\Delta \mathbf{v}_{clPN0}^\Sigma$, can be derived in matrix form as

$$\dot{\Delta \mathbf{x}}_{PN0} = \mathbf{A}_s \Delta \mathbf{x}_{PN0} + \mathbf{M} \Delta \mathbf{n}_{PN0} + \mathbf{B} \Delta \mathbf{v}_{pPN0} \quad (12)$$

where $\Delta \mathbf{x}_{PN0} = [\Delta \mathbf{i}_{cPN0}, \Delta \mathbf{i}_{gPN0}, \Delta \mathbf{v}_{cuPN0}^\Sigma, \Delta \mathbf{v}_{clPN0}^\Sigma]^T$ and the details of the matrices derived are:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A}_s = & \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{R_m}{L_m} \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{0} & -\frac{\mathbf{PN}_{uabc} \mathbf{P}^{-1}}{2L_m} & -\frac{\mathbf{PN}_{labc} \mathbf{P}^{-1}}{2L_m} \\ \mathbf{0} & -\frac{R_m}{L_m} \mathbf{C}_z & -\frac{\mathbf{PN}_{uabc} \mathbf{P}^{-1}}{L_m} & \frac{\mathbf{PN}_{labc} \mathbf{P}^{-1}}{L_m} \\ \frac{\mathbf{PN}_{uabc} \mathbf{P}^{-1}}{C_m} & \frac{\mathbf{PN}_{uabc} \mathbf{P}^{-1}}{2C_m} \mathbf{C}_z & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \frac{\mathbf{PN}_{labc} \mathbf{P}^{-1}}{C_m} & -\frac{\mathbf{PN}_{labc} \mathbf{P}^{-1}}{2C_m} \mathbf{C}_z & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \\ \mathbf{M} = & \begin{bmatrix} -\mathbf{PV}_{cuabc}^\Sigma \mathbf{P}^{-1}/(2L_m) & -\mathbf{PV}_{clabc}^\Sigma \mathbf{P}^{-1}/(2L_m) \\ -\mathbf{PV}_{cuabc}^\Sigma \mathbf{P}^{-1}/L_m & \mathbf{PV}_{clabc}^\Sigma \mathbf{P}^{-1}/L_m \\ (2\mathbf{PI}_{cabc} \mathbf{P}^{-1} + \mathbf{PI}_{gabc} \mathbf{P}^{-1})/(2C_m) & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & (2\mathbf{PI}_{clabc} \mathbf{P}^{-1} - \mathbf{PI}_{gabc} \mathbf{P}^{-1})/(2C_m) \end{bmatrix} \\ \mathbf{B} = & [\mathbf{0} \quad -2/L_m \quad \mathbf{0} \quad \mathbf{0}]^T, \quad \Delta \mathbf{n}_{PN0} = [\Delta \mathbf{n}_{uPN0} \quad \Delta \mathbf{n}_{lPN0}]^T \end{aligned}$$

In order to derive the system state equation, the relationship among the modulation ratio $\Delta \mathbf{n}_{PN0}$, the state variable $\Delta \mathbf{x}_{PN0}$, and

$$\begin{cases} \Delta \mathbf{n}_{uPN0} = -\mathbf{G}_{iPN0} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{i}_{gPN0} - \mathbf{G}_{vPN0} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{v}_{gPN0} - \mathbf{G}_{ccPN0} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{i}_{cPN0} \\ \Delta \mathbf{n}_{lPN0} = \mathbf{G}_{iPN0} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{i}_{gPN0} + \mathbf{G}_{vPN0} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{v}_{gPN0} - \mathbf{G}_{ccPN0} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{i}_{cPN0} \end{cases} \quad (13)$$
$$\Delta \mathbf{n}_{PN0} = \mathbf{G}_A \cdot \Delta \mathbf{x}_{PN0} + \mathbf{G}_B \cdot \Delta \mathbf{v}_{pPN0} \quad (14)$$
$$\dot{\Delta \mathbf{x}}_{PN0} = (\mathbf{A}_s + \mathbf{M}\mathbf{G}_A)\Delta \mathbf{x}_{PN0} + (\mathbf{B} + \mathbf{M}\mathbf{G}_B)\Delta \mathbf{v}_{pPN0} \quad (15)$$
$$\begin{aligned} \Delta \mathbf{X}_{PN0} = & (\Gamma[\mathbf{A}_s] + \Gamma[\mathbf{M}] \cdot \mathbf{H} \mathbf{G}_A - \mathbf{Q}) \cdot \Delta \mathbf{X}_{PN0} \\ & + (\Gamma[\mathbf{B}] + \Gamma[\mathbf{M}] \cdot \mathbf{H} \mathbf{G}_B) \cdot \Delta \mathbf{V}_{pPN0} \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$
$$\Delta\theta=G_{pll}(s)\Delta v_a \quad (22)$$

where $G_{pll}(s)$ is the transfer function of the PLL expressed as:

$$G_{pll}(s) = \frac{K_{ppll}s + K_{ipll}}{s^2 + V_d K_{ppll}s + V_d K_{ipll}} \quad (23)$$

where K_{ppll} and K_{ipll} are the proportional and integral coefficients of the PLL's PI controller, respectively, and V_d is the steady state d-axis network voltage.

In steady-state, the measured network voltages at the MMC connection point V_d^c and V_q^c in the control frame determined by the PLL equal to the corresponding V_d and V_q in the actual system frame, and can be written as [28]:

$$\begin{bmatrix} V_d^c \\ V_q^c \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(0) & \sin(0) \\ -\sin(0) & \cos(0) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_d \\ V_q \end{bmatrix} \quad (24)$$

However, according to (22), voltage perturbation Δv_q at the connection point leads to angle deviation $\Delta\theta$ extracted by the PLL, which affects the frame transformation. For small angle deviation $\Delta\theta$, the trigonometry functions $\sin(\Delta\theta)$ and $\cos(\Delta\theta)$ are approximated to 0 and 1 in the frame transformation, respectively. Based on (22) and (24), the voltage perturbations Δv_d and Δv_q in system dq-frame passing through the PLL yield the voltage perturbations in the control frame as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Delta v_d^c \\ \Delta v_q^c \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & V_q G_{pll} \\ 0 & 1 - V_d G_{pll} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta v_d \\ \Delta v_q \end{bmatrix} \quad (25)$$

In the same way, the resultant current perturbation in the control frame due to the PLL can be expressed as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Delta i_d^c \\ \Delta i_q^c \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & I_q G_{pll} \\ 0 & -I_d G_{pll} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta v_d \\ \Delta v_q \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \Delta i_d \\ \Delta i_q \end{bmatrix} \quad (26)$$

where I_d and I_q are the d-axis and q-axis steady-state currents, respectively.

The small signal voltage references in system dq-frame can be obtained as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Delta v_{cond}^c \\ \Delta v_{conq}^c \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \Delta v_{cond}^c \\ \Delta v_{conq}^c \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -V_{conq} G_{pll} \\ 0 & V_{cond} G_{pll} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta v_d \\ \Delta v_q \end{bmatrix} \quad (27)$$

where V_{cond} and V_{conq} are the steady-state output d-axis and q-axis voltages of the AC current control loop, respectively.

To derive a simplified matrix form, we can define the following matrices:

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & V_q G_{pll} \\ 0 & 1 - V_d G_{pll} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & I_q G_{pll} \\ 0 & -I_d G_{pll} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{C} = \begin{bmatrix} G_{ipI} & 0 \\ 0 & G_{ipI} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\mathbf{D} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\omega_0 L_m \\ \omega_0 L_m & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{E} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -V_{conq} G_{pll} \\ 0 & V_{cond} G_{pll} \end{bmatrix},$$

where G_{ipI} is the transfer function of the current PI controller. According to the structure of the current loop shown in Fig. 3, the perturbations of the modulation ratios are determined by the perturbations of the voltage and current in dq-frame as:

$$\Delta \mathbf{n}_{dq} = \mathbf{G}_{idq} \Delta \mathbf{i}_{dq} + \mathbf{G}_{vdq} \Delta \mathbf{v}_{dq} \quad (28)$$

where

$$\mathbf{G}_{idq} = 2(\mathbf{D} - \mathbf{C})/V_{dc} \quad (29)$$

$$\mathbf{G}_{vdq} = 2(\mathbf{D}\mathbf{B} + \mathbf{E} + \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}\mathbf{B})/V_{dc} \quad (30)$$

F. Outer-loop controller

The outer-loop controller is designed to set the current reference i_{dref} and i_{qref} for the inner-loop AC current controller. Fig. 4 shows typical outer loop control designs with active and reactive power control (PQ control), and active power and AC voltage control (PV control).

As shown in Fig. 4, for AC voltage control, the linearised terminal voltage magnitude of MMC is expressed as:

$$\Delta v = \frac{V_d \Delta v_d^c + V_q \Delta v_q^c}{\sqrt{V_d^2 + V_q^2}} \quad (31)$$

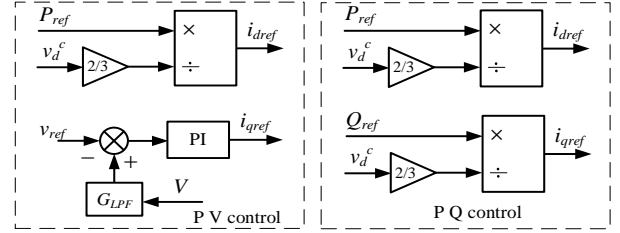


Fig. 4 Outer-loop: PV and PQ control

For the active and reactive power control, the linearised d- and q-axis current references can be obtained as:

$$\Delta i_{dref} = -2P_{ref} \Delta v_d^c / (3V_d^2) \quad (32)$$

$$\Delta i_{qref} = -2Q_{ref} \Delta v_d^c / (3V_d^2) \quad (33)$$

Thus, with PV control and considering (31) and (32), the linearized model of PV control can be described as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Delta i_{dref} \\ \Delta i_{qref} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & G_{LPF} G_{vPI} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -2P_{ref} / 3V_d^2 & 0 \\ V_d / \sqrt{V_d^2 + V_q^2} & V_q / \sqrt{V_d^2 + V_q^2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta v_d^c \\ \Delta v_q^c \end{bmatrix} \quad (34)$$

where G_{LPF} is the transfer function of the low pass filter in the AC voltage measurement and G_{vPI} denotes the transfer function for the voltage-loop PI controller, as:

$$G_{LPF} = \frac{1}{sT + 1}, \quad G_{vPI} = K_{vp} + \frac{K_{vi}}{s} \quad (35)$$

where T is the time constant of the low pass filter [30], K_{vp} and K_{vi} are the proportional and integral coefficients of the AC voltage control loop.

$$\text{Define } \mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & G_{LPF} G_{vPI} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -2P_{ref} / 3V_d^2 & 0 \\ V_d / \sqrt{V_d^2 + V_q^2} & V_q / \sqrt{V_d^2 + V_q^2} \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and}$$

according to Fig. 3, the corresponding \mathbf{G}_{idq} and \mathbf{G}_{vdq} in (28) with the PV outer-loop controller can be derived as:

$$\mathbf{G}_{idq} = 2(\mathbf{D} - \mathbf{C})/V_{dc} \quad (36)$$

$$\mathbf{G}_{vdq} = 2(\mathbf{D}\mathbf{B} + \mathbf{E} + \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}\mathbf{B} + \mathbf{C}\mathbf{X}\mathbf{A})/V_{dc}$$

When the outer-loop adopts PQ control, combining (32) with (33) also yields the linearized transfer function of the controller in the same form as illustrated in (36) in which \mathbf{X} is now given

$$\text{as } \mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} -2P_{ref} / 3V_d^2 & 0 \\ -2Q_{ref} / 3V_d^2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

\mathbf{G}_{idq} and \mathbf{G}_{vdq} are in dq-frame, and can generally be expressed as (taking \mathbf{G}_{idq} as an example)

$$\mathbf{G}_{idq}(s) = \begin{bmatrix} G_{idd}(s) & G_{idq}(s) \\ G_{iqd}(s) & G_{iqq}(s) \end{bmatrix} \quad (37)$$

After transformation to the PN0-frame in a similar way as in (21), the controller transfer functions in PN0-frame become

$$\mathbf{G}_{iPN0}(s) = \begin{bmatrix} G_{iPP}(s) & G_{iPN}(s) & 0 \\ G_{iNP}(s) & G_{iNN}(s) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (38)$$

The elements in the matrices above can be obtained as [29]:

$$\begin{cases} G_{iPP}(s) = \frac{1}{2} [G_{idd}(s-j\omega_0) + G_{iqq}(s-j\omega_0) - jG_{idq}(s-j\omega_0) + G_{iqd}(s-j\omega_0)] \\ G_{iPN}(s) = \frac{1}{2} [G_{idd}(s+j\omega_0) - G_{iqq}(s+j\omega_0) + jG_{idq}(s+j\omega_0) + G_{iqd}(s+j\omega_0)] \\ G_{iNP}(s) = \frac{1}{2} [G_{idd}(s-j\omega_0) - G_{iqq}(s-j\omega_0) - jG_{idq}(s-j\omega_0) - G_{iqd}(s-j\omega_0)] \\ G_{iNN}(s) = \frac{1}{2} [G_{idd}(s+j\omega_0) + G_{iqq}(s+j\omega_0) + jG_{idq}(s+j\omega_0) - G_{iqd}(s+j\omega_0)] \end{cases} \quad (39)$$

According to (38) and (39), similar to 2-level VSC in [29], there exists coupling between positive and negative sequence frequencies caused by the dq-frame controller and other harmonic state variables in the PN0-frame. The matrix \mathbf{HG}_A in the Appendix need to be modified accordingly as:

$$\mathbf{HG}_A = \begin{bmatrix} \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\ \cdots & \mathbf{G}_A(s-j2\omega_0) & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{GNP}_A(s) & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \cdots \\ \cdots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{G}_A(s-j\omega_0) & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{GNP}_A(s+j\omega_0) & \mathbf{0} & \cdots \\ \cdots & \mathbf{GNP}_A(s-j2\omega_0) & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{G}_A(s) & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{GNP}_A(s+j2\omega_0) & \cdots \\ \cdots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{GNP}_A(s-j\omega_0) & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{G}_A(s+j\omega_0) & \mathbf{0} & \cdots \\ \cdots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{GNP}_A(s) & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{G}_A(s+j2\omega_0) & \cdots \\ \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \end{bmatrix} \quad (40)$$

In (40), \mathbf{GNP}_A and \mathbf{GPN}_A are the frequency coupling matrices created by dq-frame controller as

$$\mathbf{GNP}_A(s) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & -\mathbf{GNP}_{iPN0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{GNP}_{iPN0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{GPN}_A(s) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & -\mathbf{GNP}_{iPN0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{GNP}_{iPN0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \quad (41)$$

$$\text{where } \mathbf{GNP}_{iPN0}(s) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ G_{iNP}(s) & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{GPN}_{iPN0}(s) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & G_{iPN}(s) & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}.$$

The matrix \mathbf{HG}_B can also be derived using the same approach.

III. SMALL-SIGNAL ADMITTANCE OF MMC IN PN0-FRAME

The solution of (16) can be expressed as

$$\Delta \mathbf{X}_{PN0} = (\mathbf{sI} - \Gamma[\mathbf{A}_s] - \Gamma[\mathbf{M}] \cdot \mathbf{HG}_A + \mathbf{Q})^{-1} \cdot (\Gamma[\mathbf{B}] + \Gamma[\mathbf{M}] \cdot \mathbf{HG}_B) \cdot \Delta \mathbf{V}_{pPN0} \quad (42)$$

where the matrix \mathbf{H}_{hss} reflects the relationship between the input variables $\Delta \mathbf{V}_{pPN0}$ and state variables $\Delta \mathbf{X}_{PN0}$. The small-signal admittance matrix of MMC \mathbf{Y}_{MMC} links the AC terminal voltage and current perturbations as

$$\Delta \mathbf{i}_{gPN} = \mathbf{Y}_{MMC} \Delta \mathbf{v}_{pPN} \quad (43)$$

In PN0-frame, $\Delta \mathbf{i}_{gPN}$ is part of the state variable matrix $\Delta \mathbf{X}_{PN0}$ and $\Delta \mathbf{v}_{pPN}$ is part of the input matrix $\Delta \mathbf{V}_{pPN0}$. Thus \mathbf{Y}_{MMC} can be extracted directly from the matrix \mathbf{H}_{hss} . Considering the harmonics in $\Delta \mathbf{i}_{gPN}$ and $\Delta \mathbf{v}_{pPN}$, \mathbf{Y}_{MMC} will have a large dimension [18][19]. Therefore, further analysis of the MMC admittance matrix \mathbf{Y}_{MMC} is required.

As for the MMC, the even harmonics in the upper and the lower arms of any phase have the same magnitude and phase (called a common-mode (CM) harmonic), while the same magnitude but 180° phase difference (called a differential-mode (DM) harmonic) for odd harmonics [31]. The CM components circulate in the internal MMC while the DM components output through the MMC AC terminals.

If a positive-sequence perturbation $\Delta \mathbf{v}_{pabc}$ at ω_p appears at the MMC AC terminal, the upper and lower arm equivalent capacitor C_m will have the positive-sequence response voltage $\Delta \mathbf{v}_{cuabc}^\Sigma$ and $\Delta \mathbf{v}_{clabc}^\Sigma$ at ω_p , respectively. Because the upper and lower arms are symmetrical, the perturbation voltage $\Delta \mathbf{v}_{cuabc}^\Sigma$, $\Delta \mathbf{v}_{clabc}^\Sigma$ belongs to the DM components, i.e., the same magnitude but 180° phase difference. Taking the positive-sequence

capacitor voltage perturbations $\Delta \mathbf{v}_{cuabc}^\Sigma$, $\Delta \mathbf{v}_{clabc}^\Sigma$ for the upper and lower arms as an example, they may be expressed as:

$$\Delta \mathbf{v}_{cuabc}^\Sigma = -\Delta \mathbf{v}_{clabc}^\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \Delta m_c \cos(\omega_p t + \Delta \theta_c) \\ \Delta m_c \cos(\omega_p t + \Delta \theta_c - 2\pi/3) \\ \Delta m_c \cos(\omega_p t + \Delta \theta_c + 2\pi/3) \end{bmatrix} \quad (44)$$

where Δm_c and $\Delta \theta_c$ are the magnitude and the phase angle of the perturbation voltage, respectively.

The steady-state values of the modulation ratio for the upper and lower arms are \mathbf{N}_{uabc} and \mathbf{N}_{labc} , mainly including the DC, fundamental and double-frequency ($h=2$) components. The impact of the different components on the MMC AC terminal current are now considered.

- For the DC components of \mathbf{N}_{uabc} and \mathbf{N}_{labc} , both $\mathbf{N}_{uabc0} \Delta \mathbf{v}_{cuabc}^\Sigma$ and $\mathbf{N}_{labc0} \Delta \mathbf{v}_{clabc}^\Sigma$ are positive-sequence variables with the same frequency ω_p but opposite sign, resulting in positive-sequence voltage at ω_p generated at the MMC terminal. Consequently, positive-sequence current at ω_p is generated at the MMC AC terminal.
- For the fundamental frequency components of \mathbf{N}_{uabc} and \mathbf{N}_{labc} , they are DM components and $\mathbf{N}_{uabc1} = -\mathbf{N}_{labc1}$. Thus, $\mathbf{N}_{uabc1} \Delta \mathbf{v}_{cuabc}^\Sigma$ equals $\mathbf{N}_{labc1} \Delta \mathbf{v}_{clabc}^\Sigma$, and the two appear as MMC internal CM components. Thus, no current or voltage response at the MMC AC terminal will be observed.
- For the double-frequency components of \mathbf{N}_{uabc2} and \mathbf{N}_{labc2} , they are the CM components and identical as:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{N}_{uabc2} &= \mathbf{N}_{labc2} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} N_2 \cos(2\omega_0 t + \theta_2) \\ N_2 \cos(2\omega_0 t + \theta_2 + 2\pi/3) \\ N_2 \cos(2\omega_0 t + \theta_2 - 2\pi/3) \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned} \quad (45)$$

The product of the perturbation arm capacitor voltage $\Delta \mathbf{v}_{cuabc}^\Sigma$ and \mathbf{N}_{uabc2} is:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{N}_{uabc2} \Delta \mathbf{v}_{cuabc}^\Sigma &= -\mathbf{N}_{labc2} \Delta \mathbf{v}_{clabc}^\Sigma \\ &= \frac{\Delta m_c N_2}{2} \begin{bmatrix} \cos[(\omega_p + 2\omega_0)t + (\Delta \theta_c + \theta_2)] + \cos[(\omega_p - 2\omega_0)t + (\Delta \theta_c - \theta_2)] \\ \cos[(\omega_p + 2\omega_0)t + (\Delta \theta_c + \theta_2)] + \cos[(\omega_p - 2\omega_0)t + (\Delta \theta_c - \theta_2) + 2\pi/3] \\ \cos[(\omega_p + 2\omega_0)t + (\Delta \theta_c + \theta_2)] + \cos[(\omega_p - 2\omega_0)t + (\Delta \theta_c - \theta_2) - 2\pi/3] \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned} \quad (46)$$

According to (46), the interaction between the two yields zero-sequence voltages at $\omega_p + 2\omega_0$ with opposite direction for the upper and lower arms. For a three-wire system, such zero-sequence voltage only exists in the internal MMC, and there is no zero-sequence current or voltage at $\omega_p + 2\omega_0$ on the AC terminal. However, the generated negative-sequence voltages at $\omega_p - 2\omega_0$ for the upper and lower arms are DM components, and hence, will appear at the AC terminal with the corresponding current.

- Similarly to $h=2$, with $h=4$, there exists only $\omega_p + 4\omega_0$ at the MMC terminal but can be neglected due to its very small magnitude. Whereas for $h>4$, the h -th harmonics in the MMC are all very small and the response at $\omega_p \pm h\omega_0$ can be ignored.

Therefore, based on the above observation, the specific form of the small-signal admittance \mathbf{Y}_{MMC} at the MMC terminal can be simplified as a 2 by 2 matrix expressed

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Delta i_{gP}(s) \\ \Delta i_{gN}(s-j2\omega_0) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} Y_{PP}(s) & Y_{PN}(s) \\ Y_{NP}(s-j2\omega_0) & Y_{NN}(s-j2\omega_0) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta v_{pP}(s) \\ \Delta v_{pN}(s-j2\omega_0) \end{bmatrix} \quad (47)$$

where $Y_{PP}(s)$, $Y_{PN}(s)$, $Y_{NP}(s-j2\omega_0)$, and $Y_{NN}(s-j2\omega_0)$ are the four elements extracted from the matrix \mathbf{H}_{hss} .

Thus, the form of the MMC admittance is effectively a 2 by 2 matrices and hence the system stability analysis can be carried out by application of the Generalised Nyquist Criterion.

It is noted that the MMC admittance as indicated in (42) and (43) is depended on the operating point and therefore, different operating points will result in different MMC admittances.

IV. MODEL VALIDATION AND STABILITY ASSESSMENT

In order to validate the developed HSS model, the admittance plots from the HSS model are compared to those obtained from corresponding time-domain models using frequency sweep method. The time-domain models are implemented in Matlab/Simulink and the HSS model as described in this section, is implemented by using an m.file in Matlab. The main electrical parameters of the MMC system are listed in Table I. In the time-domain models, the small-signal impedance of the MMC is measured by means of injecting a series of small positive and negative-sequence perturbations Δv_{pa} , Δv_{pb} , and Δv_{pc} as shown in Fig. 1, of which the peak phase voltage is 3kV at different frequencies. The AC current response Δi_{ga} , Δi_{gb} , and Δi_{gc} of the MMC system under each frequency is measured and the admittance under this frequency is calculated using (47).

Table I Main electrical parameters of the MMC system

Parameters	Value
Rated active and reactive power (P, Q)	1000 MW, ± 300 MVar
Nominal DC Voltage (V_{dc})	± 320 kV
Rated MMC AC voltage (L-L) (V_{nl})	360 kV
Arm resistance and inductance (R_m , L_m)	0.08 Ω , 0.042 H
Lumped cell capacitance (C_m)	31.4 μ F
Nominal Frequency (f_0)	50 Hz
Transformer rated apparent power (St)	1265 MVA
Transformer voltage ratio (kt)	400/360 kV
Transformer leakage reactance X_t^*	0.18 pu

A. Admittance analysis from time-domain model

Initial tests in the time domain model with the MMC under open-loop control is carried out. The 3-phase modulation ratio for the arms are assigned directly, e.g., for phase 'a' upper arm, $n_{ua}=0.5-0.46[\cos(\omega_0 t+0.07)]+0.01[\cos(2\omega_0 t+0.07)]$. Voltage perturbations of 40Hz positive and negative sequence are injected at the MMC AC terminal, separately. FFT analysis is conducted on the phase 'a' current and voltage and selected spectra are shown in Fig. 5 in which the 50Hz fundamental frequency components have been omitted for clarity.

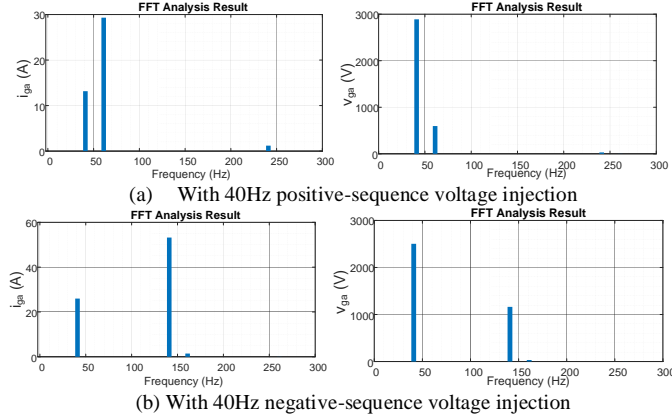


Fig. 5 FFT results of AC terminal current and voltage (i_{ga} , v_{ga}) with voltage perturbation injection.

Table II Phase angles of the 3-phase voltage and current with 40Hz positive and negative sequence voltage injections (degree)

	Positive sequence 40Hz			Negative sequence 40Hz		
	40Hz	60Hz	240Hz	40Hz	140Hz	160Hz
Δv_{ga}	85.3	-63.5	71.9	93.6	80.7	241.1
Δv_{gb}	-34.7	176.5	191.9	213.6	-39.3	1.1
Δv_{gc}	205.3	56.5	-48.1	-26.4	200.7	121.1
Δi_{ga}	150.4	105.9	214.9	64.5	236.9	34.4
Δi_{gb}	30.4	-14.1	-25.1	184.5	116.9	154.4
Δi_{gc}	-89.6	225.9	94.9	-55.5	-3.1	-85.6

Fig. 5 (a) shows that under 40Hz positive-sequence voltage perturbation, there are multiple frequency responses in the voltage and current at 40Hz, 60Hz and 240Hz. Table II shows the phase angles for the voltage and current responses. It can be observed that:

- The voltage and current responses are positive-sequence at 40Hz and 60Hz, and negative-sequence at 240Hz.
- The resulted positive-sequence response at 60Hz can also be considered as negative-sequence at -60Hz, as -60Hz negative-sequence indicates 60Hz positive-sequence in time-domain [32].
- Thus, it can be concluded that the injected positive-sequence voltage perturbation at ω_p leads to a positive-sequence response at ω_p and negative-sequence responses at $\omega_p-2\omega_0$ and $\omega_p+4\omega_0$, though the negative-sequence response at $\omega_p+4\omega_0$ is very small.

For 40Hz negative-sequence voltage perturbation, Fig. 5 (b) shows the voltage and current responses at 40Hz, 140Hz and 160Hz, in which the response at 160Hz is negligible. Table II shows the corresponding voltage and current the phase angles. It can be observed that:

- The response is negative-sequence at 40Hz, positive-sequence at 140Hz, and negative-sequence at 160Hz.
- According to the analysis in Section IV, the negative-sequence input at ω_p causes the negative-sequence at ω_p (40Hz) and positive-sequence response at $\omega_p+2\omega_0$ (140Hz) and $\omega_p-4\omega_0$ (-160Hz).
- Positive-sequence -160Hz is deemed negative-sequence at 160Hz in time-domain.

The above simulation results verify the theoretical analysis in Section IV, and the small-signal model of MMC in PNO-frame is properly captured by the four admittance elements in (47).

B. Admittance validation

Fig. 6 compares the admittance elements $Y_{PP}(s)$ and $Y_{PN}(s)$ in matrix \mathbf{Y}_{MMC} derived from the HSS model with different harmonic orders considered, and those obtained from the time-domain model. The MMC exports 1000MW / 0MVar to the AC grid and the AC terminal voltage is 1 pu. Open-loop control is considered and the 3-phase modulations for the arms are the same as in Section IV A. The other two elements in \mathbf{Y}_{MMC} , $Y_{NP}(s-2j\omega_0)$, and $Y_{NN}(s-2j\omega_0)$, have similar trends and due to space limit, are not presented here. Comparing the different admittance curves, it can be found that higher harmonic order considered in the analytical HSS model leads to more accurate model, and for $h=4$ the analytical admittances match well with those of the time-domain simulation models. It also implies that the internal harmonics of MMC has a significant impact on the AC side small-signal admittance, and need to be considered in the modelling.

When the complete control including CCSC, AC current loop, PLL and outer-loop are included, Fig. 7 compares the small-signal MMC admittances obtained from the time-domain model and the HSS model ($h=4$). Due to space limitation, only the positive admittance $Y_{PP}(s)$ is presented here. As can be seen that the results from the two models match well under both PV and PQ control, while the outer loop also has a significant impact on MMC impedance. In the case of PQ control, the magnitude of Y_{PP} at 50Hz-70Hz is smaller than that in PV control, which contributes to improved system stability [33]. Moreover, the phase of Y_{PP} with PQ control is closer to 0 than that with PV control and thus has larger damping with better stability. Under both controls, the phase of Y_{PP} among 90-270° at 50-70Hz implies the negative resistance effect and potentially leads to oscillation [34]. In this scenario, the PQ control is better than PV control. For frequencies above 70Hz, the admittances under the two controls are almost the same and the phase is between -90° and 90°.

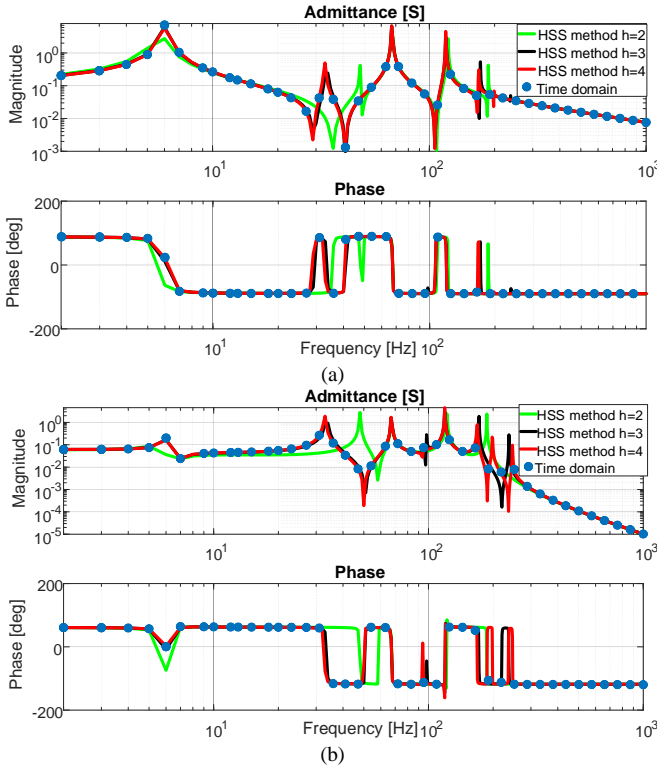


Fig. 6 Validation of the MMC admittance. (a) $Y_{PP}(s)$, (b) $Y_{PN}(s)$

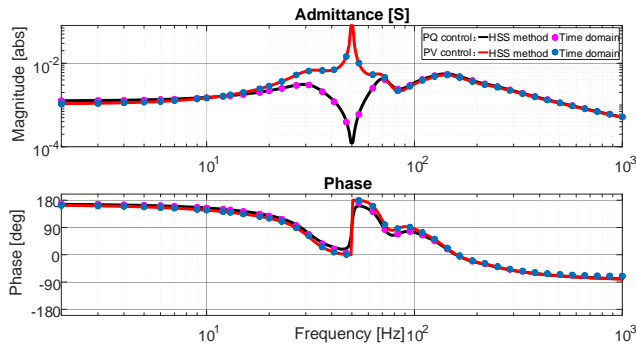


Fig. 7 Positive admittance $Y_{PP}(s)$ with different out-loop controllers

Comparing $Y_{PP}(s)$ in Fig. 6 (a) and Fig. 7, it can be seen that the resonant points are much reduced owing to the internal

harmonic decline when the full controllers are added in the system.

The analytical model also reveals that the impedance of the MMC is highly dependent on control structure and parameter setting, system operating point etc. The obtained MMC impedances during various system settings and conditions have also been validated but due to space limitation, they are not shown here.

V. STABILITY OF CONVERTERS IN CLOSE PROXIMITY

A. Equivalent network for multi-converter connection

Considering increased network interconnections and connection of large offshore wind farms (e.g. in Europe) using HVDC links, many power networks in Europe will see significant numbers of HVDC converters connected in close proximity. For example, as outlined in [35] and schematically shown in Fig. 8, the GB network will have more than 20 HVDC connection by 2027, with a total transmission capacity of over 16GW. When multiple converters are considered for studying converter interaction, shown in the red area in Fig. 8 as an example, the network admittance seen at each of the converter connection points will need to be considered together with the electrical coupling between the converters. In order to perform an analytical study on system stability and interaction, a simplified network structure is required. In this paper, the so-called multi-infeed interaction factor (MIIF) between the converters [36], proposed by CIGRE WG B4 is used to quantify the simplified system structures. MIIF is a parameter for estimating the degree of voltage interaction between converters. Converter AC busses electrically far apart will have low MIIF, while MIIF is high when the AC busses are very close and the interaction is strong between the converters. The general formula for calculating $MIIF_{e,n}$ is expressed as [36]

$$MIIF_{e,n} = \Delta V_e / \Delta V_n \quad (48)$$

where ΔV_e is the observed voltage change at bus e when a small voltage change ΔV_n is induced at bus n . MIIF values range from zero to one with zero implying infinite electrical separation between e and n and one being on the same bus.

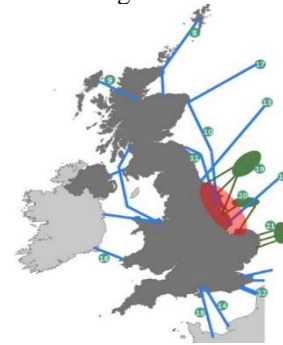


Fig. 8 A future outlook of HVDC connection in the GB power grid [35]

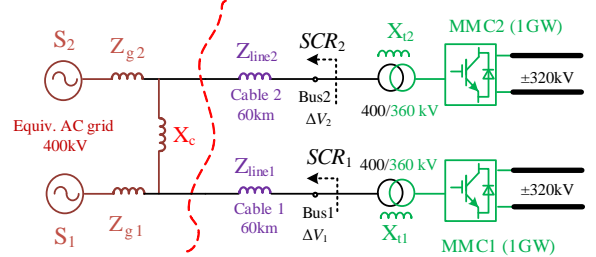


Fig. 9 Equivalent circuit configuration for analytical studies

Considering the case with two MMCs, each of the MMC can be equivalent to connection with an AC source through a certain impedance to emulate the network condition at the MMC connection point, and the two AC sources are interconnected (within the same AC network). Thus, a simplified network configuration as shown in Fig. 9 can be developed. Z_{line1} and Z_{line2} in Fig. 9 are considered as the impedances for two 60km cables connecting the MMCs to the existing network. The interconnection between the two AC sources is represented by a value of X_c considering the high X/R ratio in transmission systems. Applying the MIIF concept, the followings are considered when setting the network parameters:

- MMC₁ infeed is considered as an existing HVDC link, and thus Z_{g1} is pre-determined.
- When there exists strong electrical coupling between MMC₁ and MMC₂, i.e. the two converters are in close proximity (high MIIF), X_c is set to a low value while Z_{g2} is set to a high value, so that MMC₂ can be deemed close to AC system S₁ while being further away from S₂.
- When there only exists weak electrical coupling between MMC₁ and MMC₂ (low MIIF), X_c is set to a high value while Z_{g2} is set to a low value, so that MMC₂ can be deemed close to AC system S₂ and far away from S₁.

Accordingly, the specific network parameters for cases of weak and strong coupling are given in Table III. The equivalent impedances of the AC grids are $Z_{g1}=R_{g1}+j\omega_0L_{g1}$ and $Z_{g2}=R_{g2}+j\omega_0L_{g2}$, and $X_c=j\omega_0L_c$ is the reactance for interconnecting the two grids. By varying Z_{g1} , Z_{g2} , and X_c , different infeed conditions, i.e., electrical distances, can be emulated. Based on the parameters in Table III, the corresponding SCR for weak and strong couplings are presented in Table IV.

Table III System parameter for weak coupling and strong coupling

Parameters	Weak coupling	Strong coupling
L_{l1} and L_{l2}	0.0587H	0.0587H
Length of Cable1 & 2	60 km	60 km
R_{g1} / L_{g1}	4.08Ω / 0.1296H	4.08Ω / 0.1296H
R_{g2} / L_{g2}	4.08Ω / 0.1296H	10.2 Ω / 0.324H
L_c	0.3H	0.01H

Table IV SCR and MIIF in the case of weak coupling and strong coupling

	Weak coupling	Strong coupling
SCR ₁ /SCR ₂	2.59 / 2.59	2.74 / 2.64
MIIF _{1,2} / MIIF _{2,1}	0.26 / 0.26	0.78 / 0.81

Considering the voltages for sources S₁ and S₂ are the same, the network can be further simplified by combining the two sources into one with the three delta-connected impedance $Z_{g1}(s)$, $Z_{g2}(s)$, and $X_c(s)$ transformed to equivalent Y connection as shown in Fig. 10. Note that Z_{g1} , Z_{g2} and X_c are diagonal 2 by 2 impedance matrix in PN0-frame for the 3-phase balanced system [12].

B. Stability assessment of converters in close proximity

As shown in Fig. 10, the equivalent AC external impedance $Z_{eg1}(s)$ at MMC₁ can be derived as

$$Z_{eg1}(s) = [Z_{e3}(s) \parallel (Z_{e2}(s) + Z_{line2}(s) + X_{t2}(s) + Z_{MMC2}(s)) + Z_{e1}(s) + Z_{line1}(s) + X_{t1}(s)] \quad (49)$$

According to [33], in order to use Nyquist stability criteria, the system has to meet the following conditions:

- MMC1 and MMC2 are stable when they are individually and directly connected to ideal voltage sources.
- The grid voltage is stable without MMC1 and MMC2 connection.

The above conditions are met in a normal electrical network setup, and the matrices $Z_{eg1}(s)$ and $Y_{MMC1}(s)$ do not have right-half-plane (RHP) poles. Thus, the system stability can be assessed based on Nyquist curve for eigenvalue loci of the matrix $Z_{eg1}(s)Y_{MMC1}(s)$. Both MMC₁ and MMC₂ adopt the same control shown in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3, and also have the same outer-loop PQ control with both active references being 1GW. The reactive power of the MMCs are set to maintain their terminal voltages at 400kV, and the control parameters are listed in Table V.

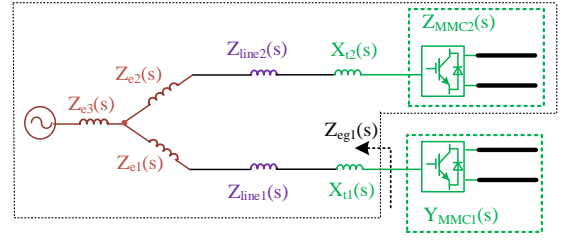


Fig. 10 Small-signal impedance equivalent circuit

Table V Controller parameters for MMC controller

Parameters	Value
Current loop PI gains: K_{ip} , K_{ii}	15.8 Ω, 2980 Ω/s
PLL PI gains: K_{pll} , K_{pli}	0.0013rad/(sV), 0.12rad/(s ² V)
CCSC PR controller gains: K_{rp} , K_{rr}	63.3 Ω, 11200 Ω/s
AC voltage controller PI gains: K_{vp} , K_{vi}	0.005 A/V, 0.5 A/(s V)

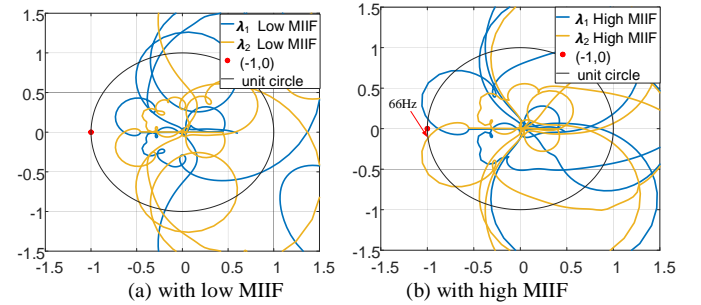


Fig. 11 Nyquist plots for different MIIF using PQ control

Under different MIIF, the Nyquist plots for eigenvalue loci of $Z_{eg1}(s)Y_{MMC1}(s)$ are compared in Fig. 11. For both MIIF cases, the eigenvalue locus do not encircle the point $(-1, 0)$ and thus the system is stable. As described in [37], the phase and gain margins can also be observed based on the Nyquist plots. With low MIIF (MIIF_{2,1}=0.26 in this example), the interaction of the two MMCs are weak and the Nyquist plots imply that the system has sufficient phase margin and magnitude margin and thus system stability is strong. In the case of high MIIF (MIIF_{2,1}=0.81 in this example), the system stability is weakened with low gain margin and phase margin. Meanwhile, the crossover frequency of the Nyquist curve shown in Fig. 11(b) is 66Hz, indicating the system has the worst stability around 66Hz, which is in the frequency range of MMC negative resistance appearing in Fig. 7. However, it needs to be noted that MMC negative resistance itself will not necessarily lead to unstable system as stability is the result of the interaction of multiple impedances including network.

The corresponding time-domain simulation results are given in Fig. 12. At 12s, a small perturbation is injected into the active power reference of MMC1. The d-axis current of MMC1 with low MIIF has smaller overshoot and can reach stable operation quicker than that under high MIIF as seen in Fig. 12 (a) and (b), indicating the system under low MIIF has higher stability margin than that under high MIIF. Note that the oscillation frequency in Fig. 12 (b) is around 16Hz in dq-frame, corresponding to 66 Hz in AC system. The simulation results thus accord well with the Nyquist analysis.

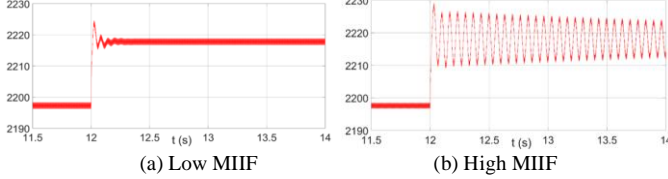


Fig. 12 The d-axis current of MMC1 with different MIIF

The effect of different outer-loop control on the stability of the interconnection system is further investigated. MMC1 now adopts PQ control and MMC2 PV control. Under different MIIF, the Nyquist plots are depicted in Fig. 13. As can be seen, with low MIIF, the system can maintain sufficient stability, whereas with high MIIF, the system becomes unstable. The corresponding time-domain simulation results shown in Fig. 14 match well with that of Fig. 13, in which the system is unstable for high MIIF. Further studies considering different MIIF and outer-loop controllers reveal similar results. When multiple converters are considered, a system with low MIIF has better system stability than that with high MIIF, and outer-loop can also significantly impact on system stability. However, a clear boundary between high and low MIIF is difficult to define and full system studies are required to determine system stability.

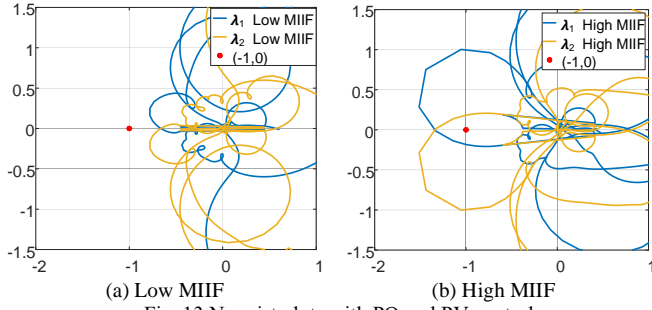


Fig. 13 Nyquist plots with PQ and PV control.

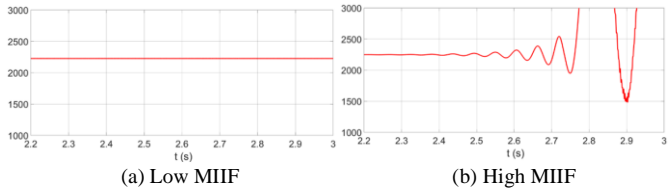


Fig. 14 The d-axis current of MMC1 with different MIIF.

Looking into the causes of the reduced stability margin in Fig. 11(b) and instability in Fig. 13(b), the negative resistance in the MMC admittance in the frequency range of 50-70Hz is of clear concern. This in combination with the high admittance magnitude under PV control leads to instability as shown in Fig. 13(b) and Fig. 14(b). Therefore, parameter turning or additional voltage control to reduce the admittance magnitude within 50-

70Hz under PV control can likely improve system stability. Further studies and results will be report in the future.

When assessing system stability, converters including wind farms, HVDC, FACTS etc. connected in close proximity to the point of common coupling must be fully considered. In addition, converter admittance is affected by its operating point as previously described. Thus, the assessment of multiple converter interaction is a complex issue which is affected by multiple factors including the states and operation of the network and converters etc.

VI. CONCLUSION

This paper has described the impedance modelling and validation of the three-phase MMC converter based on HSS. The detailed mathematical expressions for HSS modelling for MMC have been derived considering the integration of various inner and outer control loops. The coupling between the positive and negative sequence components brought by external control loops and PLL are analyzed in the model. The small-signal impedances obtained from the developed analytical model have been validated using time-domain models. With the impedance model, the interaction of multiple converters in close proximity is studied considering different multi-infeed interaction factor (MIIF). Stability analysis and time domain simulation results show good match and that system with high MIIF where strong couplings between the two MMCs exist may cause the instability of the system.

Converter and system impedances are highly dependent on operating point, controller setting, and network structure, and thus further studies to investigate the impact of their variations on system stability are required. In addition, to identify states where the risk of instability may exist in a multi-infeed converter system is critical, so as to help inform operating away from those network or converter operating states.

APPENDIX A

The matrices in (14) are given as

$$\Gamma[\mathbf{A}_s] = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}_s^0 & \mathbf{A}_s^{-1} & \dots & \mathbf{A}_s^{-h} & & \\ \mathbf{A}_s^1 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \mathbf{A}_s^0 & \mathbf{A}_s^{-1} & \ddots \\ \mathbf{A}_s^h & \dots & \mathbf{A}_s^1 & \mathbf{A}_s^0 & \mathbf{A}_s^{-1} & \dots & \mathbf{A}_s^{-h} \\ \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \mathbf{A}_s^1 & \mathbf{A}_s^0 & \ddots & \vdots \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \mathbf{A}_s^{-1} & \mathbf{A}_s^0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Gamma[\mathbf{B}] = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{B}^0 & \mathbf{B}^{-1} & \dots & \mathbf{B}^{-h} & & \\ \mathbf{B}^1 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \mathbf{B}^0 & \mathbf{B}^{-1} & \ddots \\ \mathbf{B}^h & \dots & \mathbf{B}^1 & \mathbf{B}^0 & \mathbf{B}^{-1} & \dots & \mathbf{B}^{-h} \\ \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \mathbf{B}^1 & \mathbf{B}^0 & \ddots & \vdots \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \mathbf{B}^{-1} & \mathbf{B}^0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Gamma[\mathbf{M}] = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{M}^0 & \mathbf{M}^{-1} & \dots & \mathbf{M}^{-h} & & \\ \mathbf{M}^1 & \ddots & & & \ddots & \\ \vdots & & \mathbf{M}^0 & \mathbf{M}^{-1} & \ddots & \\ \mathbf{M}^h & \ddots & \mathbf{M}^1 & \mathbf{M}^0 & \mathbf{M}^{-1} & \ddots & \mathbf{M}^{-h} \\ & & & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \mathbf{M}^{-1} \\ & & & & \mathbf{M}^h & \dots & \mathbf{M}^1 & \mathbf{M}^0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{H}\mathbf{G}_A = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{G}_A(s - jh\omega_0) & & & & \\ & \ddots & & & \\ & & \mathbf{G}_A(s - j\omega_0) & & \\ & & & \mathbf{G}_A(s) & \\ & & & & \mathbf{G}_A(s + j\omega_0) & \ddots & \\ & & & & & \mathbf{G}_A(s + jh\omega_0) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{H}\mathbf{G}_B = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{G}_B(s - jh\omega_0) & & & & \\ & \ddots & & & \\ & & \mathbf{G}_B(s - j\omega_0) & & \\ & & & \mathbf{G}_B(s) & \\ & & & & \mathbf{G}_B(s + j\omega_0) & \ddots & \\ & & & & & \mathbf{G}_B(s + jh\omega_0) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{Q} = \begin{bmatrix} -jh\omega_0\mathbf{I} & & & & \\ & \ddots & & & \\ & & -j\omega_0\mathbf{I} & & \\ & & & 0 \cdot \mathbf{I} & \\ & & & & j\omega_0\mathbf{I} & \ddots & \\ & & & & & jh\omega_0\mathbf{I} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Delta\mathbf{x}_{PN0} = \begin{bmatrix} \Delta\mathbf{x}_{PN0}(s - jh\omega_0) \\ \vdots \\ \Delta\mathbf{x}_{PN0}(s - j\omega_0) \\ \Delta\mathbf{x}_{PN0}(s) \\ \Delta\mathbf{x}_{PN0}(s + j\omega_0) \\ \vdots \\ \Delta\mathbf{x}_{PN0}(s + jh\omega_0) \end{bmatrix}, \quad \Delta\mathbf{v}_{PN0} = \begin{bmatrix} \Delta\mathbf{v}_{PN0}(s - jh\omega_0) \\ \vdots \\ \Delta\mathbf{v}_{PN0}(s - j\omega_0) \\ \Delta\mathbf{v}_{PN0}(s) \\ \Delta\mathbf{v}_{PN0}(s + j\omega_0) \\ \vdots \\ \Delta\mathbf{v}_{PN0}(s + jh\omega_0) \end{bmatrix}$$

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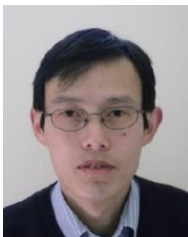
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